Regulatory authortiy for higher education

938. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKARREDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Knowledge Commission has recommended for an independent regularatory authority for higher education;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon;

(c) whether the commission is worried about the quality and standards; and

(d) if so, the steps taken in this direction to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. However, no decision has been taken on the recommendation of the National Knowledge Commission (NKC).

(c) and (d) The NKC has made certain recommendations for enhancement of quality. Focused attention is being given for promoting quality and excellence in higher education through steps including provision of improved infrastructure, qualitative improvement in faculty, increase in number of fellowships etc. public investment on all sectors of education is sought to be increased in the XI Five Year Plan for enhancing capacity and improvement of quality of education.

Expansion of secondary **education**

t939. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has formulated any scheme for expansion of secondary education:

(b) if fo, the details thereof;

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on this scheme;

(d) whether all the students educated under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan would be easily admitted in secondary classes after implementing this scheme; and

(e) if no, the alternative arrangements made by Government for making the study of all those students uninterrupted who have obtained education under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored scheme for universalisation of access to and improvement of quality of education at secondary stage during the 11 th Five year Plan. The objective of the scheme is to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing one secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. The proposed scheme envisages: (i) provision of necessary infrastructure and resources for the existing secondary schools and for improvement in quality of learning in the schools; (ii) provision for filling the missing gaps in the existing secondary schools system; (iii) provision of extra support for education of girls and children of disadvantaged sections of the society; and (iv) a holistic convergent frame work for implementation of various schemes in secondary

tOriginal notice of the question was received in Hindi